under:-

(i) Supply of Bed rolls to all the passengers in AC 3 tier coaches without realising the cha rges;

(ii) Introduction of tatkal reservation scheme in a large number of trains;

(iii) Linking of Delhi & Secunderabad PRSs with Calcutta PRS, thereby providing on line reservation facility to passengers for trains defined on Calcutta, New Delhi and Secunderabad PRSs;

(iv) Introduction of Passenger Information System for providing up-to-date information about train running, etc. in Delhi and Mumbai;

(v) Provision of computerised reservation facility at various towns;

(vi) Provision of Interactive Vocie Reponse System at some stations;

(vii) Introduction of new IRY coaches in Swarna Shatabdi Express for better ride index;

(viii) In the direction of providing cooking free platform, sophisticated bainmarie machines have been provided to start with at New Delhi Station. This will provide fresh and hot meal prepared in the hygienic condition;

(ix) Two superfact trains from each Zonal Railway have been identified for providing upgraded passenger amenities, including catering services with a view to provide better services to the passenger travelling long distance;

(x) Railways have spent Rs. 40.13 crore up to September, 1998 for provision/ augmentation of amenities at stations like extension/raising/widening of platforms, renovation fo station buildings, provision of Food-over-bridges, augmentation of waiting facilities, drinking water supply, washable aprons, etc. at various stations all over Indian Railways;

(xi) Public Address system introduced on EMU services in Mumbai Area;

(xii) Quality of Train lighting improved by converting 24 V system to 110 V system.

1213 No. coaches converted from April to October, 1998, etc.

Pilgrim train for pilgrim places in Hyderabad

762. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce a pilgrim train, on the lines of Palace on Wheels, originating and terminating at Hyderabad, with stops at Mantralayan, Puttaparthi, Tirupati and other places of pilgrim importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A proposal to introduce a special train on this circuit has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The introduction of the train can be considered if suitable offers are received for investment, management and marketing of this train from the tourism industry or other potential investors from the public/private sector.

Railway crossing in Assam

763. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway crossings in Assam;

(b) the number of such crossings on which underbridges or overbridges are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing such bridges in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 1275 nos.